

[19th October 1927]

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 698 asked by Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 19th October 1927, page 182 supra.]

G.O. Mis. No. 1315, Revenue, dated 9th July 1927.

READ—the following paper :—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Settlement), Mis. No. 1502, dated the 7th June 1927.

Read—the following paper :—

Letter from G. W. WELLS, Esq., M.A., I.C.S., Collector of South Kanara, dated the 3rd March 1927, R. Dis. No. 1164/27.

Brief history of the bar.—The Nileshwar river runs parallel with the coast for a distance of about 20 miles. It is said that in the early sixties of the last century the bar was at the southern extremity of Nileshwar village. It gradually receded towards the south and settled itself at what is called Kavoy and was known as the Kavoy bar forming the boundary between South Kanara and Malabar. After this change serious flooding of the low-lying lands adjacent to the course of the river used to occur whenever the monsoon rains were unusually heavy. To remedy this evil the inhabitants of the affected villages applied to the Collector as far back as 1896 for permission to cut through a new bar at Nileshwar so that the flood water could escape to the sea. The permission was then refused by the Collector, Mr. Welsh, who remarked that the proposal was dangerous. There was, however, another petition in 1908 and after consulting the Executive Engineer the Collector granted permission to the petitioners on 12th August 1909 to make an experiment on their own account, if they wished, the next year. It was specifically mentioned in this order that the permission was for one year only, that future permission would depend on the results of the experiment and that the petitioners should give timely previous notice of the cutting to the Deputy Tahsildar of Hosdug. In pursuance of this permission an opening was cut in 1910, but it appears to have soon closed up by itself. In July 1911 the bar was cut again in S. Nos. 10/3 and 6 of Nileshwar, without permission by the villagers (Nileshwar Raja's people). Subsequent events have showed that this bar which is known as the Padne bar had come to stay. The cut became deepened and became permanent. In 1913 some of the landlords and tenants of the affected villages memorialized the Board of Revenue about the disastrous consequences brought on by the opening of the new bar. This was forwarded to the Collector for report with Board's Reference No. 2454, dated 17th November 1913. The chief grievances complained of were that (1) by the opening of the bar the sea-water had got in and rendered the river water unfit for cultivation purposes and (2) that the opening was travelling southwards and that the erosion of lands to the south was a serious menace to the lands in Padne village. The first was not considered a serious danger, as the Divisional Officer reported that the benefit the existence of an open bar conferred on the lands which would otherwise be submerged far outweighed the damage caused by it. As regards the second, the Executive Engineer stated "that the opening will

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continue to travel southwards until it reaches Kavoy is a certainty unless preventive measures are taken." The Collector, Mr. Couchman, submitted a report, Dis. No. 1194-D/Rev., dated 16th March 1914, in reply to the Board's Reference quoted above, in which a history of the bar has been given and he was of opinion that serious attempts should be made, even if the cost be considerable, to prevent further erosion to the south. This recommendation was accepted in B.P. No. 1595, dated 2nd June 1914. To avert the danger groynes and revetment were constructed by Government in 1914 at a total cost of Rs. 3,398, out of which one-half was to be recovered from the ryots interested in 12 equal instalments. Only Rs. 89 out of the one-half was, however, collected and the balance was not paid. The protective works constructed in 1914 were not, however, of a permanent nature and various schemes were considered for closing the Padne bar permanently, but were considered impracticable. The Executive Engineer suggested two alternative schemes mentioned in Board's Reference No. 2300, dated 9th November 1916. In Government Memorandum No. 127-B/16-6, dated 7th December 1916, Government called for a plan and sections of the gap to be closed as well as plans or sketches of the successive changes of position of the opening southward. The plan and section of the gap were submitted to the Board with this office Ref. C No. 493-Rev./16, dated 19th December 1916, and a survey of the bar showing the soundings and changes that had taken place since the last survey was submitted with this office Ref. C. No. 493-Rev./16, dated 9th July 1917. Meanwhile in February 1917 the Kavoy bar had closed of itself. Thus the Padne bar became the only outlet for the Nileshwar river and so Government ordered in G.O. No. 465 I., Public Works (Irrigation), dated 10th November 1917, that it must be left open and that no further action with the object of closing it could be taken. It was also ordered that the balance of the ryots' half share of the cost of the protective works constructed in 1914 need not be collected.

2. Nothing further seems to have been done since 1917. The Revenue Divisional Officer, Puttur, inspected the bar on 19th February 1927 and the plan submitted by him, showing the position of the bar when it was first opened (in 1911) and its present position, with the intervening washed off survey numbers, some of which have been reformed and also resurveyed by the resurvey party, is enclosed. The Revenue Divisional Officer reports that the bar has already travelled a distance of about three-fourths of a mile southwards and that it still shows signs of receding towards the south, thereby washing away more lands towards the south and forming new lands on the north. The Revenue Divisional Officer also reports that when the bar was at Kavoy the water of the Nileshwar river used to remain fresh till about the end of December or January, so that the ryots could raise the suggi crop in the low-lying fields along the river and that the opening of the Padne bar has caused the river water to become saltish very soon after the rains, with the result that no suggi crop can be raised on the low-lying fields for a distance of four or five miles from the bar.

3. As matters stand at present some damage may be caused to cultivators, but the evils seem to be inevitable, as a river cannot do without a bar. Moreover, the villagers themselves are responsible for the unauthorized opening of the present bar, which proved a source of anxiety to all concerned till the Kavoy bar closed itself.

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Resolution—Mis. No. 1502, dated the 7th June 1927.

Submitted to Government.

2. The Board has since obtained a clear sketch showing full details which is enclosed.

3. For the previous history of the Padne bar down to 1914 the Board begs to refer Government to its Proceedings Mis. No. 3627, dated the 18th November 1914, disposed of in G.O. Mis. No. 169, Revenue, dated the 18th January 1915. The subsequent correspondence relating to the closing of the Padne bar will be found printed in G.O. No. 465 I., dated the 10th November 1917. In that order the Government held that as the Kavoy bar had closed the Padne bar, the only other outlet for the Nileshwar river, should be left open. The position has not undergone any material change since then.

4. The ryots' complaint now seems to be that the existence of the Padne bar causes damage to the adjoining fields on account of erosion and the overflow of salt water. The damage caused can be analysed into that caused by the existence of an open bar and that caused by its movement southward. It is impossible to remedy the former; for it is out of the question to attempt to close the bar at Padne. As regards the latter certain protective measures were taken in 1916 at a cost of Rs. 3,398 but as observed by Mr. Vibert in 1916 the movement of the bar to the south is what one must expect to take place as in the case of other river mouths on the West Coast. The Board fears that nothing can be done to prevent the damage and that the evils complained of are inevitable. The villagers themselves are responsible for the unauthorized opening of the present bar and they have no legitimate cause for grievance against Government.

